

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10

NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /109 W

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R 031640Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 917

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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GENEVA FOR MTN DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OECD, SZ

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

REF: STATE 151341

1. ON JULY 3, EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE REFTEL WITH SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS LEVY AND ROSSIER. LEVY SAID SWISS POSITION VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF USG, AND SWISS DELEGATE TO SEPTEMBER 15 MEETING (ROSSIER) WILL BE PREPARED TO WORK TOWARD AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT ON MAJOR ISSUES. IN ADDITION TO ISSUES MENTIONED REFTEL, LEVY WOULD ALSO ADD PROBLEM OF THRESHOLD. ON THIS QUESTION LEVY SAID SWISS KEEPING OPEN MIND BUT LEAN TOWARD THRESHOLD HIGH ENOUGH TO BE SIGNIFICANT IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

2. LEVY AGREED THAT OECD COUNTRIES SHOULD REACH AGREEMENT

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AMONG THEMSELVES BEFORE MOVING NEGOTIATIONS IN GATT MTN.

WHILE SWISS FAVOR PARTICIPATION OF LDC'S IN NEGOTIATING GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CODE WITHIN GATT, LEVY DOUBTED THEY COULD PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE.

3. LEVY EXPRESSED FEAR THAT CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVER FOR OECD COUNTRIES RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. HE SAID MUCH DEPENDS ON WILL OF PARTICIPANTS, PARTICULARLY EC AND JAPAN, TO REACH AGREEMENT. LEVY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW US VIEWS ON CURRENT POSITION OF EC AND JAPANESE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING APPROPRIATE INFORMATION ON EC AND JAPANESE ATTITUDES FOR LEVY.

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Message Attributes

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